



Department of Toxic Substances Control



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
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Gray Davis
Governor

July 17, 2003

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR THE FORMER WHITTAKER-BERMITE FACILITY IN SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Community Member:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control is in the process of conducting a community survey for the purpose of developing a public participation plan (as required by California Health and Safety Code Chapter 23, Section 25358.7) for the clean-up required at the Former Whittaker-Bermite Facility located at 22116 West Soledad Canyon Road in Santa Clarita. (See attached map on survey).

The Former Whittaker-Bermite Facility (Site) was used for the manufacturing of fireworks, various military explosives and rocket propellant from approximately 1934 until 1987. The operations onsite included the manufacturing of perchlorate, a primary ingredient of solid rocket propellant. Investigations conducted in 1997, detected elevated levels of perchlorate in four municipal supply wells located west of the site, all of which were subsequently shut down. In addition, a fifth well north of the site detected perchlorate and was subsequently shut down in November 2002.

Because of the potential risk from chemicals that spilled or leaked during historic operations on the 996-acre site, DTSC has ordered the Whittaker Corporation to conduct a remedial investigation and cleanup the site. DTSC is responsible for overseeing the soil and groundwater remedial investigation and clean-up of chemical contaminants at the Site that may pose a risk to human health and the environment.

This community survey will help DTSC understand your concerns so that we can keep you informed and involved throughout the ongoing investigation and cleanup. Please return mail the survey by August 18, 2003, or fax the survey to (714) 484-5329, or download and e-mail the survey via the DTSC website at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Whittaker_Bermite/index.html.

Thank you in advance for completing and returning the enclosed survey. If you have any questions please contact Project Manager, Ken Baez at (818) 551-2962 (e-mail: kbaez@dtsc.ca.gov), or Tim Chauvel at (714) 484-5487 (e-mail: tchauvel@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely

Tim Chauvel
Public Participation Specialist
Enclosure – Community Survey Questionnaire